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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Program Aid 1485

Directory of USDA Human Nutrition Activities

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This directory was prepared by the Subcommittee for Human Nutrition, Committee of Research and Education of the Secretary of Agriculture's Policy and Coordination Council.

Contact: Jacqueline Dupont, Chairperson (301) 504-6216

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USDA Human Nutrition Activities



An important mission of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is to ensure that a sufficient, wholesome, and nutritious supply of food is available to all Americans at reasonable prices and to provide information by which all persons can select a healthful diet. Another USDA mission is to contribute to food and agricultural progress throughout the world. To accomplish these missions, USDA conducts a wide range of research, education, information, regulatory, and food assistance activities. These activities are distributed throughout several agencies within USDA and are coordinated through the Department's Subcommittee for Human Nutrition of the Research and Education Committee of the Secretary's Policy and Coordination Council. The Assistant Secretaries for the agencies conducting these activities are:

**Assistant Secretary
Food and Consumer Services
240-E Suite, Administration Building**

**Assistant Secretary
Science and Education
217-W, Administration Building**

**Assistant Secretary
Marketing and Inspection Services
228-W, Administration Building**

**Assistant Secretary
Office of Economics
227-E, Administration Building**

**Under Secretary
International Affairs and Commodity Programs
205-E, Administration Building**

Subcommittee for Human Nutrition

The Subcommittee for Human Nutrition of the Department's Research and Education Committee meets monthly. All USDA agencies with human nutrition activities are represented on the subcommittee. In addition, liaison members from the Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, Food and Drug Administration, and industry are invited to attend meetings. It serves as the primary mechanism for coordination of human nutrition activities in USDA. The subcommittee provides the mechanism for regular information exchange and planning on human nutrition policy issues and serves as the vehicle for the implementation of cooperative program activities.

Contact: Jacqueline Dupont, Chairperson (301) 504-6216

Dietary Guidance Working Group

The Dietary Guidance Working Group, formed under the Subcommittee for Human Nutrition in 1986, continues to review all publications, including prospectuses and publication drafts, presenting dietary guidance information. The review process is thorough and timely for ensuring that guidance conforms to the Dietary Guidelines and is consistent and supportive across USDA agencies and the Federal Government. The group, composed of representatives from nine USDA agencies and a DHHS liaison, also serves as a means of communication among nutrition education specialists in the USDA agencies that provide guidance to their respective clientele.

Contact: Susan Welsh, Chairperson (301) 436-5090

Human Nutrition Board of Scientific Counselors

The Human Nutrition Board of Scientific Counselors, established by the Secretary of Agriculture, has met annually since 1984. Its purpose is to advise the Secretary regarding program direction, priorities, scope of activities, and quality of the Department's human nutrition research and education. The board, appointed by the Secretary, consists of 14 leading authorities from industry, academia, foundations, and government with expertise in the areas of human nutrition, food science, biochemistry, and clinical medicine.

*Contact: Jacqueline Dupont, Executive Secretary
(301) 504-6216*

Agency Activities

A brief description of some of the human nutrition related activities by agency and the name of contact persons follows.



Agricultural Research Service

R. Dean Plowman, Administrator

Agricultural Research Service

The mission of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is to implement research designed to produce new knowledge and technologies required to ensure continuing vitality of the Nation's food and agriculture enterprise. Promoting optimum health and well-being through improved nutrition is one of six major objectives of the ARS strategic program plan (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Misc. Pub. 1429, January 1983). Four approaches to achieve this objective are:

- Define nutrient requirements at all stages of life.
- Determine the nutrient content of agricultural commodities and processed foods as eaten and establish the bioavailability of nutrients in these foods.
- Improve human nutrition status by making available techniques to assess the effectiveness of nutrition programs.
- Integrate knowledge of human nutritional needs into the agricultural/food system.

The Agricultural Research Service is the Department's principal in-house research agency. Its research in human nutrition is conducted largely at five separate Human Nutrition Research Centers and at regional research centers. The centers maintain close communication with each other, and the research programs are coordinated through the National Program Staff. Each center has a different research focus and provides its unique contribution in solving high-priority

national problems. The locations and primary missions of the ARS Human Nutrition Research Centers are:

Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center

Building 308, BARC-East, USDA-ARS, Beltsville, MD 20705; Walter Mertz, Director (301) 504-8157. Its history can be traced to 1894 at Wesleyan University at Middletown, Connecticut. A move was made to Washington, D.C., in 1906 and to Beltsville, Maryland, in 1941. Research is conducted on nutrient composition and nutritional qualities of food. Studies are performed on energy metabolism and nutritional requirements. Dietary strategies are developed that can delay the onset of nutrition-related chronic diseases.

Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Center

P.O. Box 7166, University Station, USDA-ARS, Grand Forks, ND 58202; Forrest Nielsen, Director (701) 795-8456. Established in 1970. The focus is on defining human requirements for trace elements and the physiological and biochemical factors that influence those requirements.

Western Human Nutrition Research Center

P.O. Box 29997, USDA-ARS, Presidio of San Francisco, CA 94129; James Iacono, Director (415) 556-9697. Established in 1980. Develops improved methods for monitoring and evaluating nutritional status. Investigates factors that lead to malnutrition. Conducts studies on human nutritional requirements.

Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University

USDA-ARS, 711 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111; Irwin Rosenberg, Director (617) 556-3330. Established in 1979. Conducts research on the special nutritional needs of

people as they age with a view toward enhancing the quality of later life through improved nutrition and health.

Children's Nutrition Research Center

1100 Bates Street, USDA-ARS, Houston, TX 77030; Buford Nichols, Director (713) 798-7022. Established in 1979. The focus is on determining the unique nutrient needs of pregnant and lactating women and of children from conception through early years of development.

Plant, Soil, and Nutrition Laboratory

Ithaca, NY 14853; Darrell R. Van Campen, Research Leader (607) 255-5480. This laboratory was established as a National Laboratory to investigate the cause and effect relationships between plants, soil, and nutrition. Implicit in this mission is that the laboratory should study the contributions of the soil to the nutritive value of food plants. Of special interest has been the effect of mineral supply on plant constituents such as amino acids and vitamins, mineral forms in plants, transport through the plant, and availability to animals including humans. Effects of toxic substances in plants are also studied.

Regional Laboratories

Since adequate human nutrition translates directly to the need for an ample supply of wholesome high-quality foods and food products, it is important that other parts of the food production chain be concerned about solutions to nationally important food and nutrition problems. Accordingly, other ARS research centers are involved in research important to achieving the human nutrition objective. These include the Eastern Regional Research Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, Peoria, Illinois; Southern Regional Research

Center, New Orleans, Louisiana; Western Regional Research Center, Albany, California; and the Richard B. Russell Research Center, Athens, Georgia. These centers focus on specific areas of research directed at food production, food processing, food storage, distribution and marketing, and food safety.

Contact: Jacqueline Dupont, National Program Leader for Human Nutrition (301) 504-6216

Cooperative State Research Service

J. Patrick Jordan, Administrator

Natural Resources, Food, and Social Sciences

Charles B. Rumburg, Deputy Administrator

The Cooperative State Research Service (CSRS) is responsible for administering and coordinating funds appropriated under the Hatch Act and the 1977 Food and Agriculture Act to 54 State agricultural experiment stations, to 16 "1890 land-grant colleges" and to Tuskegee Institute to carry out research on food and agricultural issues including human nutrition research. Matching funds, in excess of the amount of Federal funds, are provided by the States. These projects in the area of nutrition often focus heavily on nutrient bioavailability and the composition of foods, determination of nutrient requirements, metabolic functions of nutrients and interactions, dietary and nutritional status of special populations, dietary patterns, and alterations in the nutritional value of food supply resulting from changes in production, processing, or marketing practices.

Contact: Melvin M. Mathias, Human Nutrition Scientist (202) 401-4510

Office of Grants and Programs Systems

William D. Carlson, Associate Administrator

National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program

The Competitive Research Grants Office (CRGO) was established in 1978 to implement a section of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977. In 1990, the National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program (NRICGP) subsumed and expanded CRGO. NRICGP awards competitive grants to support research in nutrition, food quality, and health with emphasis on determining nutrient requirements of normal healthy humans. The objective is to support creative research that fills gaps in the knowledge of nutrient requirements, bioavailability, the interrelationships of nutrients, and the nutritional value and safety of foods consumed in the United States. According to the congressional mandate, awards are based on peer reviews and the program is open to applicants from the broadest possible spectrum of research institutions in the United States.

Contact: Janet Baltzell, Program Director (202) 401-5178

Small Business Innovation Research Program

Under the authority of the Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982 (Public Law 97-219), the U.S. Department of Agriculture awards research grants to small business firms in selected areas of research including food science and human nutrition. Grants are awarded competitively based on technical and scientific merits. The objectives of SBIR program include stimulating technological innovation in the private sector, strengthening the role of small businesses in meeting Federal research and development needs, increasing private sector commercialization of innovations derived from USDA-supported research, and fostering and encouraging minority and disadvantaged participation in technological innovation, the basic biochemistry, chemistry, and toxicology

of food processing, and economic studies in market development and analysis.

Contact: Charles Cleland, Director (202) 401-6852

Higher Education Programs

The Higher Education Programs staff awards institutional grants on a competitive basis to support graduate training in food science and human nutrition at the predoctoral level. This Competitive Graduate Fellowship Program was initiated in FY 1984 to increase the supply of professionally trained scientists with expertise in food science and human nutrition and to provide for the recruitment of outstanding masters' and doctoral students in these areas. The supply of professionally trained scientists with expertise in food science and human nutrition is very low and the unmet demand for their services is high. Many members of the scientific community have repeatedly warned of a shortage of scientists capable of sound food and nutrition research and education.

Contact: K. Jane Coulter, Director, Higher Education Programs (202) 720-7854

Economic Research Service

John E. Lee, Jr., Administrator

The Economic Research Service (ERS) conducts a wide variety of research and analysis on food and agricultural issues, some of which relate to human nutrition. Research is conducted on food consumption patterns and their determinants, changes in dietary practices, and the effects of government policies and socioeconomic factors on food consumption. These studies use data from existing surveys such as the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Continuing Consumer Expenditure Survey, USDA's system of Nationwide Food Consumption Surveys, and the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Food Supply Estimates

ERS develops annual estimates of the per capita quantity of foods available for domestic consumption in the United States. These estimates are used by nutritionists in USDA's Human Nutrition Information Service (HNIS) in estimating average per capita nutrient availability. The food supply data series is the only set that is consistent; that is, supply and total use must balance. It measures utilization of basic commodities without getting involved with identifying all end-use products and the problems of separating food mixtures into their component ingredients and then converting these ingredients to the raw agricultural commodity. It measures food supplies for consumption through all outlets, at home and away from home. It is a long, continuous series, published first in 1941 and extended back to 1909 for most commodities. It is the only data set available for determining long-term trends in supply and consumption by major food groups. It covers the complete spectrum of foodstuffs. Hence, it can be used to measure interrelationships between foods and for measuring total food supply and apparent use. It is particularly useful for estimating complete demand systems that measure price and income elasticities of demand in a consistent way.

*Contact: Judy Jones Putnam, Agricultural Economist
(202) 219-0870*

Determinants of Food Consumption and Dietary Practices

ERS conducts research on factors that influence consumer demand for major food products and individual food items. Socioeconomic factors that are analyzed include regional population shifts, life expectancy, incomes, birth rates, and health and nutrition concerns. This information is useful for projecting consumer demand as population characteristics change as well as for aiding in the identification of population subsets whose intake of certain foods is high or low

relative to the national average. Price and income effects are also estimated for use in projections and program analysis.

*Contact: Jim Blaylock, Leader, Food Demand Research Section
(202) 219-0862*

Effects of Government Policy on Food Consumption and Human Nutrition

An ongoing research activity for ERS is analysis of the effects of alternative Government policies, especially food policies, on both producers and consumers. This research provides insight as to the effects of existing and alternative food and agricultural policies on food consumption, dietary levels, expenditures, and the nutritional status of target populations.

Contact: David Smallwood, Leader, Food Policy Research Section (202) 219-0864

Food and Nutrition Service

Betty Jo Nelsen, Administrator

Office of Analysis and Evaluation

The Office of Analysis and Evaluation (OAE) provides comprehensive, valid, timely and unbiased analysis and evaluation information to support Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) decisions on policy, legislation, budget, regulation, and program management processes. OAE analysis and evaluation activities cover the various FNS program areas:

Family Nutrition Programs

Food Stamp Program and the Nutrition Assistance Program for Puerto Rico.

Special Nutrition Programs

The Child Nutrition Programs (the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program); the Special Milk Program; WIC (the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children); the Commodity Supplemental Food Program; the Nutrition Education and Training Program; the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations; the Nutrition Program for the Elderly; Commodities for Soup Kitchens; and the Emergency Food Assistance Program. Research objectives are to describe the characteristics of program participants and eligible nonparticipants, assess the short and long-term effectiveness and efficiency of ongoing FNS programs and demonstration projects, provide leadership and technical assistance, develop program and cross-program analyses, and conduct cost analyses on the impact of budgetary and legislative initiatives.

Contact: Janice G. Lilja, Director Office of Analysis and Evaluation (703) 305-2017

Human Nutrition Information Service

Sue Ann Ritchko, Administrator

The Human Nutrition Information Service (HNIS) conducts applied research in food and nutrition—what foods Americans buy and eat, what nutrients are in the foods we eat, and how we can make informed food choices. HNIS research includes the fields of food consumption, nutrition knowledge and attitudes, dietary survey methodology, food composition, and nutrition education. HNIS research activities fall into four general areas:

Nutrient Composition

HNIS collects and evaluates comprehensive information on the nutrient composition of all foods important in American diets. The sources of these data include both the scientific literature and government, university, industry, and other laboratories; the agency also sponsors laboratory research to monitor nutrient data continually for those foods that are identified as important sources of nutrients of public health significance and to generate needed data. Data are processed through the computerized National Nutrient Data Bank and disseminated in several computer files as specialized data bases used by health professionals and researchers associated with USDA and DHHS surveys. Data are published in the Agriculture Handbook No. 8 series and its annual supplements and in many other publications. HNIS also shares its expertise with researchers in other countries and international organizations in developing information on the nutrient content of foods.

Contact: Ruth Matthews, Chief, Nutrient Data Research Branch, Nutrition Monitoring Division (301) 436-8491

Food Consumption

HNIS monitors the diets of the U.S. population and of subpopulations at nutritional risk, providing comprehensive information on household food use, food cost, dietary practices of individual household members, nutritional quality of diets, and socioeconomic variables. It does this by planning, coordinating, and overseeing the Nationwide Food Consumption Survey (NFCS), including the annual Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals and the Diet-Health Knowledge Survey. The information generated by this program is analyzed and published in forms that are readily applicable to agricultural policy, food assistance intervention programs, food quality and regulation, and nutrition education. HNIS also sponsors related methodological research. NFCS operations are part of the National Nutrition Monitoring System.

which is developed and implemented jointly with the Department of Health and Human Services.

Contact: Ellen Harris, Chief, Food Consumption Research Branch, Nutrition Monitoring Division (301) 436-8457

Diet Appraisal

HNIS conducts and interprets food and nutrition research to solve practical problems faced by government policymakers, educators, health professionals, and consumers. For example, HNIS:

- Estimates annually the nutrient content of the national food supply to show trends in nutrient availability and food sources of nutrients.
- Estimates monthly cost of the USDA Family Food Plans; one of these, the Thrifty Food Plan, is the legal standard for Food Stamp Program benefits.
- Studies the factors that affect the diets of Americans, such as eating away from home and participating in food assistance programs.
- Studies food consumption patterns, food habits, and dietary levels of vitamins, minerals, calories, and other food components to identify areas where food guidance is needed.

Contact: Susan Krebs-Smith, Chief, Diet Appraisal Research Branch, Nutrition Education Division (301) 436-8470

Nutrition Education

HNIS conducts research to develop dietary guidance concepts and effective strategies to help Americans achieve a healthful diet. For example, HNIS:

- Analyzes and interprets food and nutrition research to develop nutrition guidance concepts and techniques to assist consumers in selecting foods that make up a nutritious diet.
- Conducts research to determine nutrition education needs of different population groups, such as the elderly and the low literate, and to improve methods for educating the public about food, nutrition, and health.
- Develops suitable and safe preparation and management procedures to retain nutritional and eating qualities of food served in homes.

Contact: Carole A. Davis, Chief, Guidance and Education Research Branch, Nutrition Education Division (301) 436-5194



Information and Education

Extension Service

Myron Johnsrud, Administrator

Extension Service (ES) has a major education responsibility to disseminate research-based nutrition, food science, and food safety principles and concepts through the nationwide Cooperative Extension System (CES). Over 25 percent of all resources allocated to home economics is directed to human food and nutrition education programs. Extension professionals teach clientele improved decisionmaking and resource management; assist them to gain knowledge and skills; and alert them to pertinent applied technology and available research findings. Paraprofessional aides are employed in Extension's Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program to teach low-income families how to use limited food resources to improve family diets. CES education programs for youth and adults promote better health through knowledge of nutrition and prevention of nutrition-related health problems. Extension programming is focused on improving the quality of life of the U.S. population at the grassroots level. Professionals, paraprofessionals, and trained volunteers deliver food and nutrition programs designed to meet local needs.

*Contact: Elizabeth Tuckerman, National Program Leader,
Nutrition (202) 720-5578*

Food and Nutrition Service

Betty Jo Nelsen, Administrator

Nutrition Education and Training Program

Under the Nutrition Education and Training Program (NET), funds are granted to the States for the dissemination of nutrition information to children and for in-service training of teachers and school food service personnel. The program's major goals are to:

- Encourage good eating habits and teach children the relationship between food and health.
- Train food service personnel in nutrition and food service management and to encourage the use of the cafeteria as an environment for learning about food and nutrition.
- Instruct educators in nutrition education and in the use of the cafeteria as a learning laboratory.
- Develop appropriate educational materials for all target groups.

The NET program is for all children participating in, or eligible to participate in, the child nutrition programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This includes public and private schools; public and private residential and nonresidential child care institutions; and institutions offering summer food service programs.

NET reaches children by coordinating learning experiences in the classroom, the school cafeteria, and the community. Teachers and school food service employees receive appropriate instruction in nutrition, nutrition education, and food service management. Parent involvement is an important aspect of the program.

Contact: Joseph E. Shepherd, Director Nutrition and Technical Services Division (703) 305-2585

Human Nutrition Information Service

Sue Ann Ritchko, Administrator

The Human Nutrition Information Service provides information for professionals and consumers on nutrition topics, such as the nutritive value of foods, food money management, dietary guidelines, guides for food selection and storage, and preparation of food. In current activities, HNIS:

- Helps establish Federal policy as expressed in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- Develops dietary guidance materials to meet current needs of the general public and of population segments at nutritional risk.
- Develops materials for use by nutrition professionals based on research in nutrition science and nutrition education.
- Develops and implements educational outreach programs to promote use of the agency's nutrition education materials, such as the "Eating Right.....the Dietary Guidelines Way" Campaign.

Contact: Carole A. Davis, Chief, Guidance and Education Research Branch, Nutrition Education Division (301) 436-5194

National Agricultural Library

Joseph H. Howard, Director

The Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC) is one of 11 information centers located at the National Agricultural Library (NAL) in Beltsville, Maryland. The Center serves people seeking information or educational materials in the area of food and human nutrition.

The items in the FNIC collection are listed in AGRICOLA, the computerized bibliographic database produced by NAL. Currently, the FNIC collection includes over 50,000 books, journal articles, audiovisual and training materials, and curricula. The coverage of the collection ranges from children's materials to sophisticated technical information.

FNIC assists all interested persons; however, direct free borrowing privileges and/or unlimited free reference service is available only for the staff of the following organizations:

- Federal and State agencies
- School districts and elementary and secondary school personnel
- Nutrition Education and Training (NET) Program Special
- Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)
- Commodity Supplemental Foods Program (CSFP)
- Food Distribution Program for Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Child care and adult food program providers
- Libraries
- Other organizations receiving USDA funds or commodities

For those persons who do not fall into the above categories, materials may be obtained through interlibrary loan with any library. FNIC staff may perform brief complimentary searches of the AGRICOLA database on a topic of your choice. More extensive searches are available on a cost recovery basis.

FNIC maintains a demonstration center for an extensive collection of food and nutrition microcomputer software on dietary analysis, nutrition education, and food service programs. Software is not loaned but is available for preview onsite by appointment.

Contact: Sandra L. Facinoli, Coordinator (301) 504-5719



Food Assistance Programs

Food and Nutrition Service

Betty Jo Nelsen, Administrator

The mission of the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is to help combat hunger and malnutrition in America through the administration of domestic food assistance programs. FNS administers 11 programs. There are two offices that provide research and evaluation as well as nutrition technical services to all programs. Contacts for more detailed information follow each program description.

Food Stamp Program

The Food Stamp Program helps low-income households buy more food for a more nutritious diet. Eligibility is determined according to Federal rules that are basically the same everywhere in the country and include an income and resources test. The amount of food stamps each household receives is based on the number of people in the household and the amount of monthly income the household has after certain deductions have been subtracted. The monthly food stamp allotment is intended to supplement what a household spends on food. Only households with no income after deductions receive the full allotment of food stamps for their family size.

People apply for food stamps at their local welfare or social services office. In addition to meeting the financial criteria, households must meet some nonfinancial standards, including citizenship or legal alien status and work registration.

Contact: Phyllis Gault, Deputy Administrator, Food Stamp Program (703) 305-2064

Special Nutrition Programs

Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children

The Special Supplemental Food Program is commonly known as WIC. It provides nutritious food supplements to pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, as well as to infants and children up to the fifth birthday. WIC is operated by local health clinics and other authorized health facilities. WIC benefits are currently provided by about 7,100 clinics throughout the country.

To qualify, mothers and children must be individually certified at "nutritional risk" due to dietary need and inadequate income. Each participating mother or child receives individually prescribed packages of foods high in protein, iron, calcium, vitamin A, and vitamin C.

Depending on the age and nutritional needs of the woman, infant, or child, the package includes such foods as iron-fortified cereal, eggs, juice, and either milk or fortified infant formula or cheese. Peanut butter or dry beans or peas may also be provided. Participants get nutrition education along with the supplemental foods.

WIC clinics provide supplemental foods in one of three ways. They obtain foods from local distributors and distribute them directly, they arrange for home delivery, or they give mothers vouchers to exchange for specified items at authorized grocery stores. Most clinics give participants vouchers for use at stores.

Contact: Ronald Vogel, Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division (703) 305-2746

Commodity Supplemental Food Program

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) distributes USDA-donated foods to low-income women, children,

and elderly persons certified by participating local agencies. Those eligible include infants in low-income families, children up to age 6, pregnant or breastfeeding women, and elderly persons.

To take part in the CSFP, women and children must qualify for benefits under an existing Federal, State, or local food, health or welfare program for low-income people. Elderly persons must have incomes at or below 130 percent of income poverty guidelines. At the discretion of the State agency, participants may also be required to be determined to be at nutritional risk by a doctor or staff specialist at the local agency.

Participating elderly persons, women, and children pick up their CSFP foods at a distribution facility. They also receive instruction on how to prepare foods and practical lessons on nutrition.

The CSFP is currently operated by 47 local health agencies in 20 States.

Contact: Ronald Vogel, Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division (703) 305-2746

Food Distribution Programs

Through the Food Distribution Programs, FNS distributes foods acquired under Federal surplus removal and price support programs and by direct purchases from U.S. markets to State agencies for use by eligible local agencies. The foods go to schools and child and adult care institutions, to nutrition programs for the elderly, to needy households on Indian reservations, to other low-income households, and to a variety of charitable institutions like hospitals, homeless shelters, and soup kitchens. The foods are also used to help victims of natural disasters. The largest percentage of USDA-donated foods goes to schools. Food purchases provide

important nutrition assistance to program recipients and help support domestic agriculture.

*Contact: Alberta C. Frost, Director Food Distribution Division
(703) 305-2680*

Child and Adult Care Food Program

The Child and Adult Care Food Program helps eligible facilities and institutions serve nutritious meals and snacks to preschool and school-age children and to functionally impaired adults and individuals 60 years of age and older in adult daycare centers. To participate, facilities and institutions must be licensed or approved to provide daycare services. They must also meet certain other specific eligibility requirements.

The program operates in nonresidential daycare centers, settlement houses, outside-school-hours care centers, family and group daycare homes, institutions providing day care for handicapped children, and others. Participating facilities and institutions get cash assistance, USDA-donated foods (or cash in lieu thereof), and technical guidance. In child care and adult daycare centers, the amount of cash assistance varies according to the family size and income of persons served. In family and group daycare homes, the amount of cash assistance for each meal is a single uniform payment rate.

*Contact: Samuel Bauer, Director Child Nutrition Division
(703) 305-2590*

Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program helps communities serve nutritious meals to needy children when school is not in session. The program can be sponsored by public and private nonprofit school food authorities; units of local, municipal, county, State, or Federal governments; colleges and universities that operate the National Youth Sports Program;

residential camps; and other private nonprofit organizations that meet specific criteria.

The program operates at sites in which at least 50 percent of the children living in the area meet family size/income criteria for free and reduced-price school meals; at enrolled sites serving at least 50 percent needy children; at sites that primarily serve homeless children; and at residential camps. USDA reimburses sponsors for operating costs of food services up to an annually specified maximum rate for each meal served.

Separate higher administrative rates are provided to rural area sponsors to encourage their participation in the program. In addition, sponsors receive some reimbursement for planning, operating, and supervising expenses.

*Contact: Samuel Bauer, Director Child Nutrition Division
(703) 305-2590*

National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

The National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs help schools serve nourishing low-cost meals to children. These programs are administered at the State level through State educational agencies. In addition to cash reimbursements for each meal served, participating schools get USDA-donated foods and technical guidance. Cash reimbursements to schools are higher for meals served to children who qualify on the basis of family size and income for free or reduced-price meals. Almost all public schools participate in the National School Lunch Program.

*Contact: Samuel Bauer, Director Child Nutrition Division
(703) 305-2590*

Special Milk Program

The Special Milk Program makes it possible for all children attending a participating school or institution to purchase milk at a reduced price or, at local option, receive it free if they are eligible. Schools and institutions that participate in other federally assisted child nutrition programs may not participate in the Special Milk Program.

*Contact: Samuel Bauer, Director Child Nutrition Division
(703) 305-2590*

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

This program provides monthly food packages to needy households and individuals living on or near a reservation. It is an alternative to the Food Stamp Program because many Native Americans live too far from Food Stamp Offices and food stores. Indian Tribal Organizations and State agencies are responsible for all aspects of program operations, including storage and distribution of the monthly food package items, participation certification, and nutrition education.

Over 60 commodity food items are available in the monthly food package.

*Contact: Alberta C. Frost, Director Food Distribution Division
(703) 305-2680*

The Emergency Food Assistance Program

TEFAP gives needy Americans, including low-income, homeless, and unemployed people, USDA-donated foods for household use. The foods are free to recipients meeting eligibility criteria. This food program helps distribute surplus commodities to help reduce their storage and inventory costs, plus some purchased foods. State agencies administer the program.

*Contact: Alberta C. Frost Director, Food Distribution Division
(703) 305-2680*

Nutrition and Technical Services

The Nutrition and Technical Services Division (NTSD) provides technical support to FNS programs in the areas of nutrition science, nutrition education, food service management, and food science/technology. Nutritionists and food technologists at agency headquarters and regional offices provide coordinated assistance to State and local agencies administering FNS programs. NTSD also participates in cooperative activities and projects with other government agencies, educational organizations, private industry, and other groups. Brief descriptions of major areas of responsibility follow:

Nutrition Services

Analyzes and evaluates the nutritional contribution of food packages offered in the FNS programs through its Computerized Food Package Modeling System. Provides interpretation of current nutrition/medical literature and consultation to program divisions on current nutrition issues; for example, those pertaining to eligibility and appropriateness of foods for the food packages. Division staff make recommendations on policy and research issues that affect the nutrition services aspects of program administration.

Nutrition Education

NTSD is responsible for administering the Nutrition Education and Training Program. Interprets and applies research findings to (a) provide consultation to Federal, State, and local program staff and health professionals, (b) develop guidance materials for use by program staff, and (c) develop nutrition education publications for program personnel and participants. These materials address topics pertinent to the needs of program participants; for example, nutritional needs of pregnant teenagers, breastfeeding, food buying for nutrition and economy, and adaptation of information for special populations such as Native Americans and new immigrants, and commodity food factsheets.

Food Service Systems and Training

Develops regulations, issue papers, policy statements, and program aids implementing the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and governing meal pattern requirements and related food service issues in support of all child-feeding programs. Reviews USDA donated commodity specifications in regard to nutrition-related issues. Develops, tests, evaluates, and provides technical assistance in all areas of food service management—menu planning, recipes, cooking yields, food purchasing, storage, preparation, service, sanitation, and merchandising. Provides funding to support the National Food Service Management Institute.

Food Science and Nutrition

Provides technical assistance in all areas of human nutrition—food labeling, food crediting, food additives, nutritional contribution, food processing, fortification of engineered foods, and bioavailability of nutrients. Administers the voluntary Child Nutrition (CN) Labeling Program. Develops issue papers, policy statements, regulations, and technical publication materials to govern product formulation approval and inspection requirements for CN labeled products. Coordinates with regulatory agencies on inspection and labeling issues. Interprets various agencies' labeling regulations to apply guidelines to FNS programs. Responsible for FNS alternate food regulations and product approvals as well as interpretation of the competitive food regulation.

Contact: Joseph E. Shepherd, Director Nutrition and Technical Services Division (703) 305-2585



Food Inspection, Marketing, and Procurement

Agricultural Marketing Service

Daniel D. Haley, Administrator

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) helps regulate, improve, and protect the marketing of farm products, including these foods: meat, poultry, eggs, dairy products, fruits, and vegetables. The agency:

- Develops quality grade standards, provides voluntary grading and certification services, and collects and disseminates information about market conditions to expedite trading between buyers and sellers.
- Purchases non-price-supported commodities for distribution to schools and other eligible outlets, using specifications that consider the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- Inspects plants processing liquid, frozen, and dried eggs to ensure that these products are wholesome, unadulterated, and properly labeled.
- Provides laboratories for microbiological and chemical testing of food and collects data about pesticide residues on fresh fruits and vegetables as part of USDA's Pesticide Data Program.
- Oversees regulatory laws that promote fair business practices, marketing agreements, and orders that enable farmers to organize to solve marketing problems, and research and promotion programs that are industry financed.
- Supports research by local government and food industry groups to improve wholesale food marketing services and facilities.

Contact: Director, Information Staff (202) 720-5115

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

Keith D. Bjerke, Administrator

The Utilization Branch, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), develops and maintains specifications for commodities procured by the Kansas City Commodity Office of ASCS that are intended for human consumption.

*Contact: Ronald L. Wilson, Chief, Utilization Branch,
Commodity Operations Division (202) 720-3395*

Food Safety and Inspection Service

M. Russell Cross, Administrator

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) ensures that meat and poultry products sold in interstate commerce are safe, wholesome, and accurately labeled.

FSIS carries out its responsibilities through the inspection of animals before slaughter, in-plant inspection of meat and poultry slaughter and processing, approval of meat and poultry product formulas and labels before the products are marketed, ongoing plant inspection of these products, and monitoring of meat and poultry products through distribution channels.

Food Ingredient Assessment Division, Regulatory Programs

The Food Ingredient Assessment Division (FIAD) is responsible for providing analytical, consultative, and planning services in the areas of food ingredients, product standards, nutrition, and product safety. The Division:

- Coordinates formulation of agency nutrition policy, recommends necessary nutrition research, and serves as a source of information for the agency on food science and nutrition-related topics.

- Develops and interprets regulatory and nonregulatory policy for health messages and nutrition claims on labels and prepares necessary documents for issuing such requirements.
- Recommends regulations, bulletins, and other documents to implement necessary agency standards dealing with nutritional requirements for meat and poultry products.
- Conducts evaluations of packaging material and of direct and indirect food additives used for foods regulated by FSIS.
- Develops product standards to specify meat content and usual ingredients.

Contact: C.R. Edwards, Director, Food Ingredient Assessment Division (202) 205-0080 or L.P. Posati, Deputy Director, Food Ingredient Assessment Division (202) 205-0080

Standards and Labeling Division, Regulatory Programs

The Standards and Labeling Division carries out the Department's label approval and auditing function for all labels used on federally inspected meat and poultry products. The Division:

- Reviews all complex labeling before its use on meat and poultry and monitors those labels that are approved in the field.
- Reviews label applications to ensure that meat and poultry products are formulated with safe and suitable ingredients, that their labels are truthful and not misleading, and that these labels show all required information.

- Develops policy and regulations in the food labeling area.
- Provides support and advice relating to Codex Alimentarius, an international index of foods.

*Contact: A.L. Clemons, Director (202) 205-0042 or
J. Majkowski, Deputy Director (202) 205-0293*





